

staffs, to take a look at the resolution because I would like to see cosponsors. I think we ought to have the 98 who voted last year for the resolution which I cosponsored with Senator MACK, and perhaps the two absentees as well.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I am pleased to rise in support of the resolution before us today to express the Sense of the Senate that the Federal commitment to biomedical research at the National Institutes of Health is one of our highest priorities in fiscal year 1999. This resolution states that Congress should increase the NIH budget by \$2 billion next year.

I would like to commend my colleague, Senator SPECTER, for his leadership in bringing this resolution forward today to ensure our commitment to biomedical research. I was an original cosponsor with Senator MACK of similar legislation, Senate Resolution 15, introduced on the first day of the 105th Congress. The "Biomedical Research Commitment Resolution of 1997," expressed the Sense of the Senate that the NIH budget should be doubled over the next five years. The resolution before us today puts us one step closer to achieving that goal.

I have struggled with the effort to balance the budget and preserve a strong federal role in biomedical research during times of fiscal restraint. As a member of the Senate Budget Committee, it will be my goal to increase the NIH budget within the context of the overall budget agreement reached by Congress last year.

Historically, Congress has demonstrated strong support for increased funding for the important work of the National Institutes of Health. The scientific and medical breakthroughs supported by the National Institutes of Health in the last 50 years have improved vastly our capacity to prevent, diagnose, and treat human disease. As a heart and lung transplant surgeon, I know that biomedical research is fundamentally important in our battle against disease. As Americans, we have the benefit of one of the finest health care systems in the world, and it is vital that we continue to invest in our research efforts to maintain this health care system.

As chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on Public Health and Safety with jurisdiction over the NIH, I believe that one of the federal government's primary duties is to ensure our investment in long-term biomedical research as a public good. The commitment to this investment allows us to reap many benefits in improving the quality of life for our citizens. It is in this spirit that I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support the passage of this resolution in recognition that the future of our nation's health is dependent on our strong investment in biomedical research.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet at 2:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 29, 1998, in open session, to receive testimony on the national security implications of enlarging NATO and the continued deployment of U.S. forces in Bosnia.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, January 29, 1998, in open session, to receive testimony on the report and recommendations of the national defense.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON SECURITIES

Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Securities of the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, January 29, 1998, to conduct an oversight hearing on market circuit breakers.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, the Finance Committee requests unanimous consent to conduct a hearing on Thursday, January 29, 1998 beginning at 10:00 a.m. in room 215 Dirksen.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS

Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Governmental Affairs, be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, January 29, 1998, to hold a hearing at 9:30 a.m. in SD-342 entitled *Medicare Fraud Prevention: Improving The Medicare Enrollment Process*.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

CUBAN WOMEN AND CHILDREN HUMANITARIAN RELIEF ACT

• Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I am pleased to be an original cosponsor of Senator DODD's legislation, the "Cuban Women and Children Humanitarian Relief Act."

This bill, which is long overdue, authorizes the President to permit the sale of food, medicine, and medical equipment to the Cuban people. One would think that this would not be necessary. The United States has a long history of providing humanitarian assistance to needy people even when

we differ with their government. North Korea is an example. Yet, because of our obsessive antipathy toward Fidel Castro, we have applied a different standard to Cuba. Unfortunately, it is the Cuban people who have suffered as a result, not their government. In fact, it has given Fidel Castro a convenient excuse to blame the United States for whatever goes wrong there.

The American Association for World Health reports that malnutrition, deterioration of water quality, and serious deficiencies in medicines, equipment and medical information have resulted from American restrictions severely limit the sale of medicines they actually prohibit the sale of food. Not even the sanctions against Libya, Iran, and Iraq contain such extreme measures. This outright ban on food has been especially harmful to women and children, contributing to nutritional deficits among pregnant women and low birth-weight babies, as well as a high incidence of neurological disease.

I have long believed that the way to encourage democratic reforms and respect for human rights in Cuba is not through isolation of this tiny island nation, but through the normalization of our relationship by relaxing the embargo. One would think that after thirty-seven years, with Castro still in power, we would try another approach. Many Americans share this view. Over \$60 million in medicine and medical supplies have been donated by U.S. citizens over the past five years. Unfortunately, this great display of generosity represents only a tiny portion of the over \$400 million in medicines and food that Cuba imported from the United States prior to the passage of the restrictive 1992 Cuban Democracy Act.

I urge all Members of Congress to reconsider the reasons behind our embargo against Cuba. The Cold War ended years ago. Easing the restrictions on the sale and donation of medicines and food to Cuba will not, in any way, compromise our nation's security. While Pope John Paul's visit may not signal a political change in Cuba, it does illustrate a new opening by the Castro regime for religious expression that the United States should encourage. Passage of the Cuban Women and Children Humanitarian Relief Act would not only ease the suffering of the Cuban population, it would reaffirm to the world that the United States is the humanitarian nation we hold ourselves out to be. •

TRIBUTE TO CHARLES H. CUFFELD

• Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a distinguished public servant upon his retirement as President Judge of the Philadelphia Traffic Court. Born and raised in Philadelphia, Charles Cuffeld devoted his life to the city. Charles will be sincerely missed not only for the vision and leadership he brought to his office, but also for his integrity and character.

On December 24, 1991, Governor Robert Casey appointed Charles President Judge of the Philadelphia Traffic Court. Charles became the first African-American President Judge to serve in either the Traffic Court or the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Prior to this appointment, he had served as an elected Traffic Court judge since 1982.

Early in his tenure, President Judge Cuffeld established goals to improve the Court's productivity, increase public accessibility, and foster public respect for the law. Most would agree that great strides were achieved in each of these areas. For instance, President Judge Cuffeld modernized the Court's operations. Internal communication was enhanced through technological improvements. A clear chain of command was established for the Traffic Court departments. Supervisors were educated on personnel regulations. Several departments were reorganized, and employees were cross-trained in all departments. Even the judges were sent to annual training and recertification programs. Likewise, the Traffic Court under President Judge Cuffeld developed working relationships with other law enforcement agencies, interdepartmental units, and the local media. Other initiatives made Traffic Court more accessible. Expanded payment operations, night court, motion court, and outreach court, in which surrounding neighborhood police stations hosted Traffic Court, were among these important programs. Finally, President Judge Cuffeld strengthened traffic law enforcement programs. In fact, some initiatives have been so successful that Canadian and other foreign officials have expressed interest in duplicating them.

Beyond his judicial service, Charles has participated in many community-oriented organizations. He has served on the Mayor's Office of Community Services Advisory Board and the Boy Scouts Unity District Council. Currently, Charles is a member of the Salvation Army Advisory Board and a Director of Concerned Black Men, Inc. I am also very proud to note that Charles serves on my own Military Academy Review Board.

An even more revealing testament of Charles' commitment to public service is the fact that organizations across the political and ideological spectrum have honored him. Both the V.F.W. and the N.A.A.C.P. named him Man of the Year. For outstanding community service, he received a Congressional Certificate of Merit. He is a two-time recipient of the Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Highway Safety Award. WCAU-TV Channel 10 presented him the Spirit of Philadelphia News Award. He has received a Certificate of Appreciation from the Philadelphia Police Department. Finally, Charles has also been honored with the North Philadelphia Youth Investment Award.

In closing, Mr. President, Charles Cuffeld set a new standard for the

Philadelphia Traffic Court. He worked to raise awareness of the law, to enforce the law, and to bring justice to the people. During his tenure as President Judge, Charles brought the same passion for the law to his work as an administrator. He skillfully modernized the court, handled personnel matters, ensured his judges kept up to date on legal developments, and improved communication operations. Equally important is the care and compassion he has shown for the community. Charles is the product of hard work, focused determination, and a strong sense of civic responsibility. He is a fine role model for those who have been fortunate enough to know him. As President Judge Charles Cuffeld retires from public life, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending the Senate's best wishes to him and his family. ●

TOUGH, SMART WOMEN WORKING TO BETTER IRAN

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, it has been almost twenty years since the overthrow of the Shah of Iran and the year-long ordeal of the American hostages in Tehran. The U.S. swiftly responded to those incidents by isolating Iran diplomatically, militarily, and economically. Today our policy of isolation continues.

The U.S. has legitimate, serious concerns about the Iranian Government's support for international terrorism, its efforts to undermine the Arab-Israeli peace process, and its acquisition of weapons of mass destruction. We must continue to vigorously pressure Iran to modify its conduct in each of these areas.

However, rather than adhere blindly to all aspects of a policy that was conceived in response to events in 1979, it is time to reevaluate our relationship with Iran and its people and consider the advantages that might result from a more open dialogue.

Too often our antagonism toward Iran obscures the fact that many Iranian citizens desire better relations with the United States. On January 7, 1998 Iranian President Mohammad Khatemi said in an interview with CNN that he wanted people-to-people exchanges to "crack the wall of mistrust" between the United States and Iran. A December 10, 1997 article in the "International Herald Tribune" by Ms. Catherine O'Neill, who recently visited Iran on behalf of UNICEF, entitled, "Tough, Smart Women, Working to Better Iran," illustrates that there are many similarities between us and the Iranian people and that citizens of both countries could benefit from the regular sharing of ideas and academic and professional advances if only the opportunity were there.

Mr. President, I ask that excerpts from Ms. O'Neill's article be printed in the RECORD.

The excerpts follow:

[From the Herald Tribune, Dec. 10, 1997]
TOUGH, SMART WOMEN, WORKING TO BETTER IRAN

(By Catherine O'Neill)

TEHRAN.—Somehow I had always felt that women who adopted the chador had shut me out. That black cloak seemed a way of saying: "Don't approach! My values are different."

A recent visit to Iran has proved how wrong I was. It also has taught me something about not imposing my values on tough, smart women who are working to make changes in their country.

At the invitation of Unicef, I went to Tehran to attend a conference on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. The conference was organized by a group of Iranian women who want to change some of Iran's laws affecting children and women.

Almost no non-Iranians were present in the hotel ballroom as several hundred chador-clad women, and some men, discussed, debated and criticized aspects of Iran's laws.

One speaker criticized Iranian companies that profit from cheap child labor.

Another talked about the illogic of a 30-year-old woman professor's being unable to choose a spouse without the approval of a father or grandfather—while a 15-year-old boy needs no approval to get married.

Speakers noted Iran's effective village health care programs, universal immunization for children and the high percentage of girls and boys attending school.

But the speakers wanted more for Iran's children and women.

During breaks, women approached me to talk. They were doctors, lawyers, teachers, psychologists, professors, child education experts and mothers. We cared about the same things: drug abuse among young people, child custody issues, child abuse, juvenile delinquency, homeless children, foster care and child labor.

My experiences in Iran should not be so rare for Americans. A new generation has arrived and almost two decades have passed since the hostage crisis of 1979-80. The United States is the only major power with no contact with Iran. But the Iranian people have given a signal: They voted in a new president against the recommendations of their religious leaders.

It's time for us in the United States to reach out to the 70 million children, men and women in Iran, who, I've found, have much in common with us. ●

NATIONAL RADIO MONTH

● Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the role of the radio broadcasting community in my home state of Minnesota. I cannot think of a more appropriate time to reflect upon how radio affects our daily lives than during "National Radio Month."

This year marks the 78th anniversary of radio in the United States. Throughout this time, radio has become an influential medium in the lives of most Americans. Today, there are over 12,200 radios in the U.S. According to the Radio Advertising Bureau, people listen to radio an average of 3 hours and 12 minutes on weekdays, and 4 hours and 42 minutes on weekends. Four out of five motorists are listening to the radio while driving, and 61.7 percent are tuned into radio during TV's prime-time hours.

As a former broadcaster, I certainly understand the extraordinary influence